

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
PUBLIC COMMENT ON TURKEY, UPLAND GAME BIRD, & MIGRATORY
BIRD PROPOSALS
COMMENTS RECEIVED AS OF JANUARY 24, 2020

1. ***Upland Game Bird Comment:*** Make the upland bird wanton-waste less restrictive. Not much good meat comes off legs and thighs of pheasants or turkeys.

Migratory Bird Comment: Make the waterfowl wanton waste less restrictive and match the federal requirements. Creates problems crossing state lines with waterfowl when state regulations are more restrictive and complicated than federal.

Jason Kool Townsend, MT

2. ***Upland Game Bird Comment:*** should be two weeks only. Coyotes, raptors, etc. plus hunters have devastated the game bird population. Or just close it for a few years and let them hunt coyotes.

markk cole Shelby, MT

3. ***Turkey Comment:*** First, we are supportive of MDFWP's proposed harvest regulation change to make available increased turkey harvest in Region 4 of central Montana. The turkey populations are apparently increasing in most locales there, and this liberalization of harvest is welcomed and appropriate.

Upland Game Bird Comment: "Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commissioners and FWP staff: The Big Sky Upland Bird Association (BSUBA) has been organized for over 30 years as a non-profit organization in Montana dedicated to habitat conservation and hunting opportunity for all upland game bird species in the state. Second, conservation of Greater Sage-grouse is an ongoing concern, and we anticipate that ANY hunter harvest of the species will come under increasing scrutiny. We have commented during prior season setting opportunities that a one-month season restricted to September: a) unnecessarily focuses harvest on hens with broods. It has long been observed that more of the sage grouse encountered during hot periods are hens with broods concentrated in moist or irrigated habitats pursuing forbs and insects. Successful hens are arguably the most important component of the sage grouse population to conserve. Higher September temperatures (the Dillon and Miles City daily mean maximum temperatures in September vs. October are 72F and 74F vs. 60F respectively). High temperatures are also an issue of dog safety from the standpoints of heatstroke and rattlesnake activity. For these reasons no other state commences sage grouse hunting as early as Montana. b) An October sage grouse season would also benefit hunters traveling to sagebrush habitats to hunt pronghorn during the rifle season. We feel it is a significant and unnecessary loss to the hunting tradition of Montana to presently be unable to gun hunt sage grouse and pronghorn afield on the same trips. MDFWP should be doing whatever it can to enhance hunter opportunities afield, and in our opinion a later sage grouse season would do exactly this.

Sincerely, Ben Deeble, president"

Ben Deeble Missoula, MT

4. ***Turkey Comment:*** I agree with the proposed motion

Upland Game Bird Comment: I agree with the proposed motion

Migratory Bird Comment: I agree with the proposed motion

Timothy Eriksen Helena, MT

5. ***Upland Game Bird Comment:*** pheasants and sharptails 4 daily, 12 in possession.

Migratory Bird Comment: Make dark geese limit in Pacific flyway five daily, 15 in possession.

Greg Houska Missoula, MT

6. ***Migratory Bird Comment:*** Season ends too soon, with current structure. Need to split the season more. Open it for a week, then close it for two or even three weeks to allow two more weeks at the end of the season.

Phillip Matteson Corvallis, MT